

Population Data Series

Many Languages of Missouri

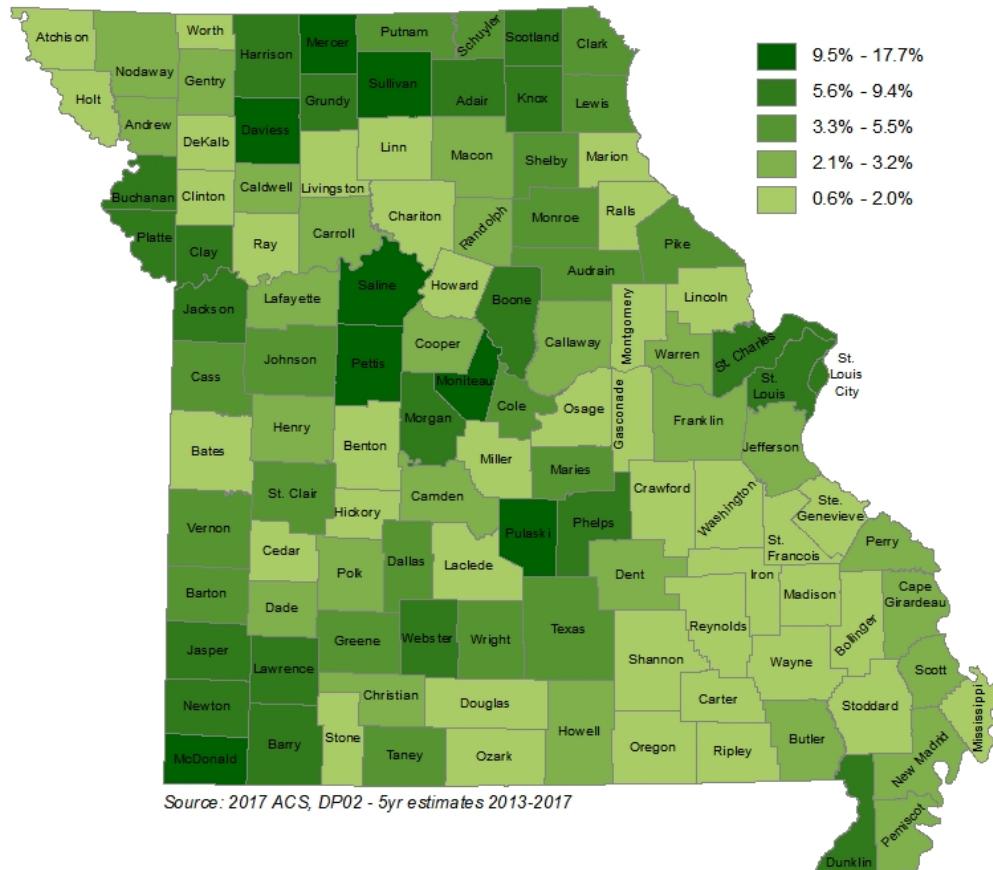


Approximately 94 percent of Missouri residents speak English only. The remaining 6 percent can be broken down into two groups: residents whose primary language is something other than English but are fluent in English, and residents that have a limited proficiency with the English language.

The American Community Survey five-year estimates include a general language survey that can be updated annually and a more detailed survey that has a greater time-lapse, of about five years. The last detailed survey conducted in 2015, indicated more than 30 different languages spoken in Missouri, including Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Serbo-Croatian, Arabic, and German. The following map indicates foreign languages spoken by county per capita percentage.

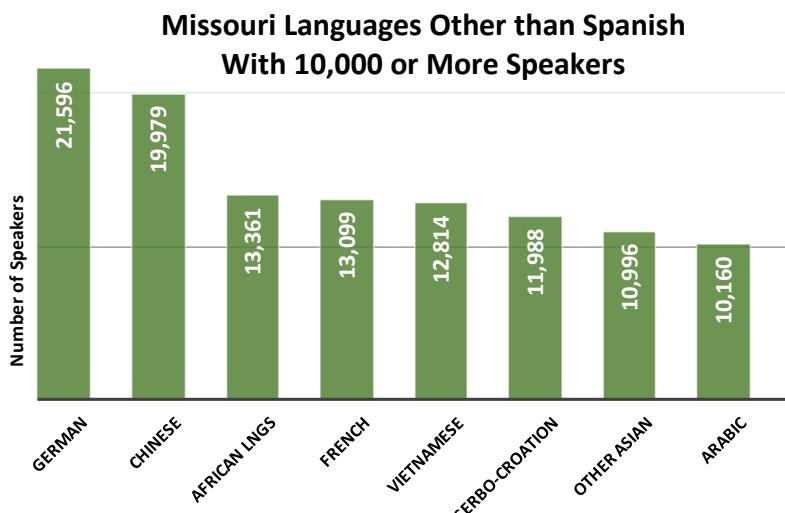
Counties in Missouri that have the largest populations per capita – at least 10 percent and above – of any foreign-language speakers include Sullivan (17.7%), McDonald (13.4%), Daviess (13.0%), Mercer (10.6%), Pettis (10.4%), Pulaski (10.3%), and Moniteau (10.0%).

Percentage of Per Capita Non-English Languages by County



Source: 2015 ACS 5yr Estimates (2011-2015) – Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English 5yrs and older. *Data from the 2015 ACS used to determine specific language groups spoken in the state. This data lags behind the other language data collected and therefore presented separately.

The bar graph below represents languages at a more detailed level, (ACS 2015). Out of the more than 38 surveyed languages, nine had 10,000 or more speakers in the state, including Spanish. The chart below identifies speakers of languages other than Spanish with more than 10,000 fluent speakers:



The most common foreign language in Missouri is Spanish. Spanish speakers make up approximately 2.6 percent of Missouri's total population of ages five years and older, or 146,225 individuals as of 2017. The chart below indicates those counties with 3 percent or greater Spanish speaking populations.

Highest Percentages of Spanish Speakers by County			
Missouri County	2017 Total Population 5yrs and Over	2017 Total Spanish Language 5yrs and Over	2017 Percent Per Capita Spanish Language
Sullivan	6,031	1,014	16.8%
McDonald	21,224	1,867	8.8%
Saline	21,560	1,723	8.0%
Barry	33,354	2,401	7.2%
Pettis	39,423	2,485	6.3%
Pulaski	49,434	3,060	6.2%
Jackson	641,819	39,219	6.1%
Dunklin	28,696	1,682	5.9%
Jasper	110,176	6,223	5.6%
Lawrence	35,639	2,012	5.6%
Moniteau	14,854	664	4.5%
Taney	51,105	1,948	3.8%
Buchanan	83,661	2,974	3.6%
Newton	54,607	1,815	3.3%
St. Louis City	294,285	9,258	3.1%

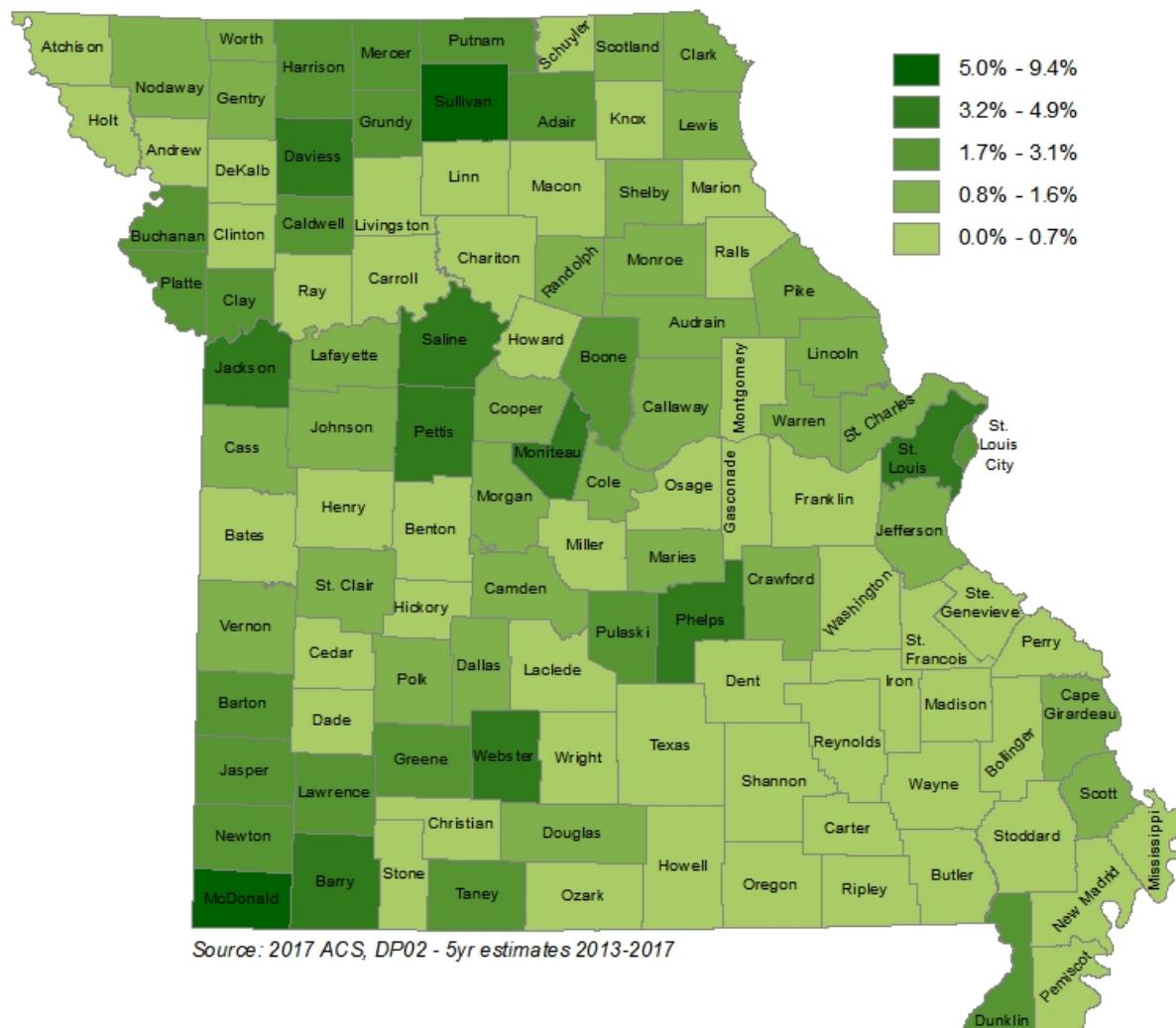
Source: 2017 ACS DP02 - 5yr Est (2013-2017)

Limited English Proficiency

The 2017 American Community Survey five-year (2013-2017) analysis estimates that 6 percent of the 2017 Missouri total population of five years and older speak a language other than English at home. Of those 6 percent, 2.2 percent have a limited proficiency with English.

County populations in Missouri with the largest percentage per capita of limited proficiency in English include Sullivan (9.4%), McDonald (6.7%), Barry (4.9%), Saline and Pettis (both 4.2%), and Moniteau (4.0%). For these counties, the primary foreign language spoken is Spanish.

Percentage of Per Capita Limited English Proficiency by County



2017 Missouri Foreign Language Percentage by County

County	Total Pop 5yrs and Over	% of Foreign Language	% of Limited English	County	Total Pop 5yrs and Over	% of Foreign Language	% of Limited English	County	Total Pop 5yrs and Older	% of Foreign Language	% of Limited English
Adair	24,242	6.0%	1.8%	Grundy	9,399	6.0%	2.8%	Perry	18,008	2.5%	0.5%
Andrew	16,417	2.1%	0.1%	Harrison	8,083	7.0%	2.6%	Pettis	39,423	10.4%	4.2%
Atchison	5,055	1.1%	0.3%	Henry	20,612	2.5%	0.4%	Phelps	42,250	6.7%	3.2%
Audrain	24,176	3.9%	0.8%	Hickory	8,964	1.7%	0.2%	Pike	17,403	4.1%	1.1%
Barry	33,354	8.9%	4.9%	Holt	4,255	0.8%	0.0%	Platte	90,850	7.4%	2.9%
Barton	11,251	4.0%	1.8%	Howard	9,528	1.2%	0.3%	Polk	29,455	3.2%	1.1%
Bates	15,441	1.4%	0.6%	Howell	37,574	2.1%	0.6%	Pulaski	49,434	10.3%	2.9%
Benton	18,162	1.8%	0.6%	Iron	9,792	1.8%	0.3%	Putnam	4,542	3.6%	1.7%
Bollinger	11,686	0.9%	0.1%	Jackson	641,819	9.4%	3.7%	Ralls	9,708	1.3%	0.3%
Boone	164,186	7.5%	2.6%	Jasper	110,176	7.2%	2.8%	Randolph	23,474	2.7%	1.0%
Buchanan	83,661	5.8%	2.8%	Jefferson	209,036	2.7%	0.8%	Ray	21,532	1.9%	0.7%
Butler	40,150	2.4%	0.3%	Johnson	50,470	3.6%	1.1%	Reynolds	6,061	0.8%	0.0%
Caldwell	8,538	2.7%	1.8%	Knox	3,743	6.8%	0.2%	Ripley	12,947	1.7%	0.6%
Callaway	42,339	2.3%	0.8%	Laclede	33,203	1.7%	0.4%	Saline	21,560	9.9%	4.2%
Camden	42,827	3.0%	0.7%	Lafayette	30,836	2.7%	1.0%	Schuylerville	4,122	3.6%	0.3%
Cape Girardeau	73,541	3.2%	0.9%	Lawrence	35,639	7.4%	2.7%	Scotland	4,487	8.2%	1.1%
Carroll	8,368	2.3%	0.5%	Lewis	9,515	4.1%	0.8%	Scott	36,339	2.6%	0.8%
Carter	5,905	1.7%	0.0%	Lincoln	51,168	1.8%	0.7%	Shannon	7,829	1.0%	0.1%
Cass	95,742	3.8%	1.2%	Linn	11,566	1.7%	0.6%	Shelby	5,721	4.0%	1.1%
Cedar	12,991	1.5%	0.2%	Livingston	14,140	1.9%	0.4%	St. Charles	361,383	6.0%	1.6%
Chariton	7,107	0.9%	0.1%	Macon	14,373	2.1%	0.6%	St. Clair	8,966	4.4%	1.4%
Christian	77,715	3.0%	0.6%	Madison	11,534	1.4%	0.2%	St. Francois	62,667	1.4%	0.4%
Clark	6,414	5.1%	1.2%	Maries	8,544	3.7%	0.9%	St. Louis city	294,285	9.1%	3.6%
Clay	220,407	6.5%	2.7%	Marion	26,861	1.8%	0.4%	St. Louis	941,211	8.7%	3.1%
Clinton	19,409	1.7%	0.6%	McDonald	21,224	13.4%	6.7%	Ste. Genevieve	17,008	1.2%	0.3%
Cole	72,103	4.2%	1.0%	Mercer	3,451	10.6%	2.3%	Stoddard	27,968	1.6%	0.3%
Cooper	16,613	2.3%	0.8%	Miller	23,354	1.6%	0.5%	Stone	30,286	2.0%	0.6%
Crawford	22,972	1.5%	0.7%	Mississippi	13,120	0.6%	0.2%	Sullivan	6,031	17.7%	9.4%
Dade	7,229	2.9%	0.3%	Moniteau	14,854	10.0%	4.0%	Taney	51,105	5.5%	2.0%
Dallas	15,427	4.0%	1.6%	Monroe	8,214	4.1%	1.1%	Texas	24,247	3.5%	0.2%
Daviess	7,774	13.0%	3.4%	Montgomery	10,891	1.8%	0.5%	Vernon	19,407	3.7%	1.0%
DeKalb	12,041	1.5%	0.3%	Morgan	18,900	8.3%	1.4%	Warren	31,402	3.2%	0.7%
Dent	14,677	2.2%	0.4%	New Madrid	16,894	2.2%	0.5%	Washington	23,484	1.4%	0.3%
Douglas	12,674	1.3%	0.9%	Newton	54,607	6.2%	2.3%	Wayne	12,671	0.6%	0.3%
Dunklin	28,696	6.6%	2.2%	Nodaway	21,733	3.0%	1.2%	Webster	34,858	7.6%	3.7%
Franklin	96,153	2.2%	0.6%	Oregon	10,167	1.2%	0.1%	Worth	1,939	1.4%	0.9%
Gasconade	14,028	1.4%	0.1%	Osage	12,850	2.0%	0.6%	Wright	17,098	3.7%	0.5%
Gentry	6,213	2.7%	1.0%	Ozark	8,920	1.6%	0.3%	Grand Total		5,702,159	6.0%
Greene	269,246	5.0%	1.8%	Pemiscot	16,059	3.1%	0.7%				2.2%

Source: U.S. Census, DP02 - ACS 5yr-estimates 2013-2017

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